(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to abolish the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No specific case of resentment among labour about the Family Pension Scheme has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) There is no proposal to abolish the existing benefits of the Family Pension Scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Strike in Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plan

1934. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any strike by the employees in Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant in April 1992;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the steps taken to solve the grievance of the employees; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the employees struck work in the past also, if so, what are the reasons for which such strikes occur repeatedly in this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. In the recent past, the employees of Madras Atomic Power Station struck work in January 1991 for three days and for one day in December 1991. The strike in January 1991 was with respect to the increase in prices of eatables in the canteen. The matter has been settled before the labour authorities. The strike in December 1991 was in connection with the finalisation of service conditions to be offered to the employees. The matter is before the management and the Government.

Setting up of new Atomic Reactors

1935. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of atomic reactors proposed to be installed in different parts of the country during Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) what is the expected generation of power through these new reactors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Present installed capacity of nuclear power stations in operation is 1500 MWe. During the Eighth Five Year Plan period (1992-97), two reactor units (2 x 220 MWe) at Kakrapar—1 & 2 Gujarat, two reactor units at Kaiga—1 & 2 Karnataka (2 x 220 MWe) and one reactor unit (220 MWe) at Rajasthan unit-3 which are under construction, are scheduled to be commissioned with a total capacity of 1100 MWe and taking the total nuclear installed capacity to 2600 MWe by end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Increase in he prices of imported medicines

@1936. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of imported medicines have skyrocketted and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the prices of these life saving drugs have gone beyond the reach of needy patients mainly because these are listed in foreign at market rate; and

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@Previously Unstarred Question 903, transferred from the 6th May, 1992.

(c) the action proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) In the inflationary situation where costs of inputs are increasing, the prices of medicines are bound to increase. The recent foreign exchange rate adjustment has also contributed towards increase in prices. It has been the effort of the Government to moderate the prices of imported medicines which are covered under DPCO, 1987, to the extent feasible. In case of non-scheduled formulations, if price increase of MAPE charged appears to be unreasonable, companies are asked to justify the increase in the prices. In case adequate justification does not exist, companies are prevailed upon to reduce the price in the overall interest of the consumer.

Aromatic complex in Assam

@1937. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government consideration for setting up of an Aromatic complex from the surplus Naphta in Assam;

(b) if so, what is the present position of the said proposal and whether the Government has given its clearance to the project; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1010, transferred from the 6th May 1992.

Move to sell holding of Union Carbide Corporation

@@1938. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhopal Gas Peedit Sahyog Sangathan, an organisation working among the gas victims, has strongly opposed the move by the Union Carbide Corporation to sell its holdings in India to raise $ 17 million for starting a hospital to treat the Bhopal gas, victims;

(b) if so, its legal implications particularly the suspected circumvention of the C.B.I.'s move to get the Union Carbide Corporation assets in India attached following the non-appearance in court of the company's former Chairman and other in connection with the criminal case against it; and

(c) what is the Union Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by a firm of Solicitors, the Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) who is holding 50.9% shares in Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL), have pledged 16,585,000 shares to the Bhopal Hospital Trust to facilitate the construction and operation of a hospital for gas victims in Bhopal, which, under the directions of the Supreme Court in its Order dated 3.10.1991 has to be financed by Union Carbide Corporation/Union Carbide India Limited. The Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal has, *inter-alia*, ordered attachment of all movable and immovable properties of Union Carbide Corporation in India and attachment of Union Carbide Corporation property worth 50.9% in Union Carbide India Limited for having failed to appear in the Court of the criminal

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@@Previously Unstarred Question 1658 transferred from the 11th May, 1992.